

Stizus conscriptus, Nurse.

Stizus conscriptus, Nurse, Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. (7) xi. p. 522 (1903).

Hab. Karachi (Comber).

This species belongs to the *tridentatus* group. It differs from *blandinns*, Sm., in the absence of the hyaline area at the apex of the wings, the smaller size, the colour of the legs and first abdominal segment, and the somewhat narrower and longer clypeus.

XXXIV.—*Two new Asiatic Voles.*

By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

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Microtus ilæus, sp. n.

Essentially like *M. arvalis*, but with markedly larger skull.

Externally very much as in *M. arvalis*; size rather greater; hind foot attaining 19 mm. s. u. Fur rather softer and finer; hairs of back (winter) about 12 mm. in length. General colour lined greyish brown, not distinguishable from that of *arvalis*. Under surface buffy greyish. Tail brown above, greyish white below. Mammæ 2—2=8.

Skull similar in shape to that of *arvalis*, but larger in all dimensions; smoother and more rounded, the ridges and angles less developed, though the anterior corner angles of the brain-case are well marked. Interorbital region broad, smoothly rounded, the oldest specimen with scarcely a trace of commencing ridges. Brain-case large and vaulted.

Teeth essentially as in *arvalis*, but larger and heavier. M^2 in one instance out of five with a slight tendency to the development of an extra postero-internal angle. M^3 quite as in *arvalis*, the typical 4 spaces and a C well defined. M_1 as in *arvalis*, except that in all the specimens the reentrant angles on each side of the anterior trefoil meet in the centre, so as quite to shut off the anterior part of the trefoil from its two united posterior constituents. Numbering the spaces of the tooth from behind forwards therefore, it may be said to have six closed triangles, a seventh and eighth united, and a small subcircular anterior space.

Dimensions of the type (measured in the flesh):—

Head and body 115 mm.; tail 43; hind foot 19; ear 12.

Skull: condylo-basal length 28.2; condylo-incisive length

28.4; zygomatic breadth 16.1; nasals 7.8×3.2 ; interorbital breadth 4; length of brain-case from lateral occipital protuberances 14.1; height of crown from alveolus of m^2 8.5; palatilar length 14.2; diastema 8.3; palatal foramina 5.2; upper molar series (crowns) 6.8, (alveoli) 7.1.

Hab. Djarkent, Semiretschensk, E. Russian Turkestan. "On the banks of the River Üssek."

Type. Adult male. B.M. no. 11.12.14.30. Original number 17. Collected 11th March, 1911, by W. Rückbeil. Presented by the Duke of Bedford, K.G.

The skull of this vole is as much larger than that of Thian-shan and Altai representatives of *M. arvalis* as it is as compared with European examples of that wide-ranging species.

Microtus (Phaiomys) afghanus, sp. n.

"*Golunda meltada*," Gray (specimen c), Horsf. Cat. Mamm. Mus. E. I. C. p. 144 (1851).

Arvicola mandarinus?, Blanf. J. A. S. B. l. pt. 2, p. 108, pl. ii. fig. C (teeth) (1881); Thos. Trans. Linn. Soc. (2) Zool. v. p. 59 (1889): nec Milne-Edwards.

General characters of *Phaiomys*, but m_1 more as in *Pitymys*. Bullæ unusually large. Size rather smaller than in *M. blythii*. Fur straight, fairly coarse, not mole-like. Colour above more or less buffy, but as the original Griffith's skin is old and faded, and the more recent specimens are in spirit, an exact description of the colour cannot be given; Blanford calls it "light greyish rufescent brown." Under surface broadly washed with buffy whitish. Ears short, rounded. Claws of fore and hind feet fairly long, subequal; sole-pads 6. Mammæ 2—2=8.

Skull, as compared with that of *M. blythii*, with shorter nasals, broader, flatter, and less ridged interorbital region, and very much larger bullæ, which project out beyond the occipital face of the skull about as in *Lagurus*.

Teeth on the whole much as in *M. blythii*; m^3 similarly with three triangles and a V instead of the four triangles and a C characteristic of *Pitymys*. But m_1 is more as in *Pitymys*, for the combined fifth and sixth space (counting from behind*, and including the posterior transverse triangle) is nearly or quite shut off from the anterior space, the latter being, however, intermediate between the well-defined

* I have always thought this the best way to count the spaces on this tooth, and am pleased to find that Dr. Büchner has done the same in his work on the Prejevalsky mammals. Mr. Miller omits the posterior transverse space, for reasons which do not convince me.

angular trefoil of *Pitymys* and the simple rounded space of *Phaiomys*. M^3 has 3 outer and 3 inner angles, m_1 4 outer and 5 inner, but both above and below there is room for difference of opinion as to what should be counted and what not.

Dimensions of the type (measured on the spirit-specimen):—

Head and body 93 mm.; tail 23; hind foot 16.5; ear 9.

Skull: condylo-basal length 25.5; condylo-incisive length 26.5; nasals 6.6×2.9 ; interorbital breadth 4.2; palatilar length 13.6; palatal foramina 4.6; diastema 8.3; upper molar series (crowns) 6.1.

Hab. Afghanistan. Type from Gulran.

Type. Adult female in alcohol. B.M. no. 86.10.15.11. Collected 1st April, 1885, by Dr. J. E. T. Aitchison; presented by the Afghan Boundary Commission. A male from the same place and a skin from "Afghanistan" also examined.

The Afghan vole has been known for a great many years, owing to the fact that a specimen of it was obtained by Mr. William Griffith during his Mission to Afghanistan in 1843, and was included in Horsfield's 'Catalogue of the India Museum' under the name of "*Golunda meltada*." When that specimen came into the British Museum and was recognized as a vole, it was determined, with some doubt, as *Arvicola mandarinus*, Milne-Edwards, by Dr. Blanford, whose determination I followed in my list of the Afghan Boundary Mammals' (1889). Renewed examination of the specimens with modern knowledge and materials shows that the species belongs to quite a different group from *M. mandarinus* and clearly needs description as new.

Its nearest geographical neighbour, *M. transcaspicus*, Satunin, is a true *Microtus*, with the fifth and sixth spaces of m_1 separated, and a wholly different number of angles on m^3 .

XXXV.—On *Diapheromera femorata* (*Walking-stick Insect*).
By BEATRICE O. CORFE.

THE following is a short account of the life and development of the *Diapheromera femorata*, or walking-stick insect, which I watched with great interest during the summer of 1911, keeping them in an insect-cage in a warm room near the window.

Four eggs, together with the dried female insect which laid them, were sent me from Toronto, Canada, in March 1911.